



17555 PEAK AVENUE MORGAN HILL, CALIFORNIA 95037

Morgan Hill Civic Center
Council Chambers
17555 Peak Avenue
Morgan Hill, CA 95037

Chair:
Vice-Chair:
Commission Member:
Commission Member:
Commission Member:
Commission Member:
Commission Member:

Katharine Hardt-Mason
Craig C. Van Keulen
Kimberly Leiser
Martin Cheek
Lisa Aragon
Mary Kaye Gerski
Frank Weiland

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

March 15, 2011

Minutes recorded by Commissioner Leiser.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Van Keulen called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE

Present: Chair Hardt-Mason, Vice-Chair Van Keulen, Commissioner Leiser, Commissioner Cheek, Commissioner Aragon, Commissioner Weiland
Absent: Commissioner Gerski

DECLARATION OF POSTING OF AGENDA

In compliance with Government Code 54954.2

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Commissioner Cheek

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Commissioner Leiser made a motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Weiland seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.

CONSENT CALENDAR

January 18, 2011 minutes to be corrected: Commissioner Van Keulen to be referred to as Vice-Chair.

January 18, 2011 minutes –Commissioner Cheek made a motion to adopt these minutes with Commissioner Aragon seconding the motion. Approved unanimously.

BUSINESS

1. CITY COUNCIL 2011 GOALS and PRC's responsibility*

Steve Rymer introduced Ron Wolf from the Morgan Hill Unified School District

Steve Rymer reviewed the City Council's Strategy, Policy and Goals for 2011 in the following areas: Sustainable Budget, Redevelopment Investment in Morgan Hill's Quality of Life, Public Safety, Economic Development, Community Engagement and Diversity, Youth, Flood Control, Infrastructure and Community Growth and the Environment.

*In regards to Flood Control the City Council would like the PRC to look at the Downtown Specific Plan and incorporate the trails and open space segment with the flood control plan as part of discussion over the next 12 months. The goal is to provide a 100 year flood protection for the watershed of West Little Llagas Creek including Downtown Morgan Hill. The Parks and Recreation Commission is to develop this work plan which will include a review of how the trail and open space objectives of the Downtown Specific Plan can be accommodated within the design of the flood protection program. Note: Flood protection is the primary objective and its progress should not be slowed down. However, when considering flood protection the following need to be considered:

- Design for this project in regards to open space and trails
- The Safe Clean Creeks measure
- Use of RDA funds for early environmental clearance
- Completing the Llagas flood protection projects started in 1964

Commissioners Weiland, Aragon and Vice-Chair Van Keulen discussed some flood control options with Steve Rymer.

2. FISCAL YEAR 2011/12 THROUGH 2015/16 DRAFT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

The proposed Capital Improvement Program (CIP) FY 11/12-15/16 was presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission. The PRC was expected to discuss and provide recommendations to Staff and City Council.

Julie Behzad, who is the Senior Civil Engineer with Public Works, presented the first draft of the proposed CIP Parks and Public Facilities. She mentioned that most projects are funded thru the park impact fund. However, the landscaping at the Community Center was funded by the RDA this year. Karl Bjarke, from Public Works, presented and offered insight to the CIP. It was explained that there

will be less emphasis on recreation facilities and a move towards park and trail acquisitions. It was noted that there is a high priority on identifying trails in the Bike Master Plan. Two grants have been received and construction of the Madrone Channel Trail will occur in 2011/ 2012.

Commissioner Cheek and Weiland asked about the bus yard by public works and other sites that may be used for school buses and public works. It was mentioned that if the bus yard could be moved then space would become available for the development of tennis courts and expanded play areas in phases 3 and 4 of the Community Park improvements.

Commissioner Cheek asked for clarification of the timeline for the development of the El Toro Trail and he offered to help coordinate volunteers for the El Toro trail development. Commissioner Aragon, Cheek and Chair Hardt-Mason inquired about the priorities of flood control, City Hall remodeling and requested more information from planning before making final suggestions on the CIP that will be presented to City Council.

Public Comments were heard from Swanee Edward and Dennis Kennedy. Swanee Edwards emphasized the importance of approving projects that are on the RDA plans for Capital Improvements. Dennis Kennedy spoke about the importance of connecting trails and recognizing disconnections. He suggested that PRC consider setting aside some funds for the long-term master plan and vision for trails throughout Morgan Hill. Chair Hardt-Mason and Vice- Chair Van Keulen both mentioned the importance of connecting trails and looking at a long term planning for Morgan Hill.

8:00 p.m. PRC took a break allowing students in the audience to obtain signatures for their participation in our meeting tonight

3. WEST LITTLE LLAGAS CREEK FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECT AND DOWNTOWN TRAILS

Steve Rymer and Karl Bjarke spoke about the importance of looking at what the Council is asking PRC to review. It was requested that the PRC consider flood control, timing, design and trail suggestions in any recommendations relating to downtown trails in relation to City Council adopted 2011 goal and the Downtown Specific Plan.

Information was presented from Dennis Kennedy, Swanee Edwards and John McKay. They spoke about different ways to approach flood control in Downtown Morgan Hill. Some ideas that have been considered include building additional paths and day lighting the creek. The term day lighting the creek means to bring part of the creek out in the open. Edwards mentioned that funds for day lighting are available thru grants with the transportation agency of up to \$350,000 when concrete is replaced with plants. Another option the water district is considering is to bypass the channel and cut across to Britton and Del Monte. Swanee Edwards suggested that the water district look at grants: however, the water district does not build trails. John McKay suggested looking at the Clean Safe Creek, which is a water district program that needs to be applied for. He emphasized time sensitivity and encouraged the PRC to recommend design and continuous trails and paths thru downtown. It was suggested that the Parks and Trails Master Plan be updated to reflect creek alternatives.

Chair Hardt-Mason and Commissioners Weiland and Cheek expressed concerns visualizing the ideas proposed. They requested more information about the proposed suggestions and physical area. Commissioner Cheek suggested that the City of Morgan Hill look at grants. Chari Hardt-Mason emphasized the importance of knowing how to apply for grants and to be very specific on what a project is. Commissioner Aragon asked when construction could begin if grants came in. She was told that the earliest construction could begin is in 2013. Commissioners asked if Pony Baseball would be impacted. Steve Rymer and Karl Bjarke said that the water runs under the fields at Britton and that the construction impact would provide an opportunity to leverage improvement to the fields. Commissioner Cheek suggested that an opportunity may be available with the trails improvements for statues to be added. Commissioner Leiser advocated plants replacing concrete. Commissioner Leiser suggested placing plaques along trails to educate the public about native plants and drought tolerant planting alternatives. Chair Hardt-Mason and Commissioner Cheek offered to serve as liaisons for the West Little Llagas Creek Flood Protection Project and Downtown Trail Development. They will talk with Steve Rymer about more details and requested more information about the Water District's involvement be presented at the PRC meeting on May 17, 2011.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Cheek went on a tour of the Outdoor Sports Center and was impressed with the facilities maintenance and the way the MHYSA is managing the OSC.

Commissioner Weiland mentioned that he would like more conversation about the Habitat Conservation Plan and the Land Preservation Plan.

Commissioner Aragon mentioned that she is very pleased to see the expansion of bike paths in town, including the Madrone Channel Trail.

Commissioners Leiser, Aragon and Gerski have met with Tony Eulo to discuss creating an Adopt a-Park Policy. The City of Morgan Hill has a Donation Policy already in place. The Commissioners are working on suggested expansions to include park donations, volunteer opportunities and implementation strategies.

Chair Hardt-Mason has been talking with Steve Rymer about future park acquisitions.

FUTURE COMMISSION INITIATED AGENDA ITEMS:

Note: in accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2(a), there shall be no discussion, debate and/or action taken on any request other than providing direction to staff to place the matter of business on a future agenda.

- Water District, Flood Control and Downtown Trail Development
- New Chair to be elected at next meeting

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Katherine Hardt-Mason adjourned the meeting at 8:36 p.m. The next Regular Parks & Recreation Commission meeting is at **7:00 p.m. on May 17, 2011** in City Council Chambers, City Hall, 17555 Peak Avenue, Morgan Hill.

NOTICE

All public records relating to an open session item on this agenda, which are not exempt from disclosure pursuant to the California Public Records Act that are distributed to a majority of the legislative body less than 72 hours prior to an open session, will be made available for public inspection at the Office of the City Clerk at Morgan Hill City Hall located at 17555 Peak Avenue, Morgan Hill, CA, 95037 at the same time that the public records are distributed or made available to the legislative body. (Pursuant to Government Code 54957.5)

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON AGENDA

Following the opening of the Meeting, the public may present comments on items **NOT** appearing on the agenda that are within the Commission's jurisdiction. If your comments require Commission action, your request will be placed on the next appropriate agenda. No discussion or action may be taken until your item appears on a future agenda. You may contact the Clerk for specific time and dates. This procedure is in compliance with the California Public Meeting Law (Brown Act) G.C. 54950.5. Please limit your presentation to three (3) minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS APPEARING ON AGENDA

The Parks & Recreation Commission welcomes comments from all individuals on any agenda item being considered by the Commission. Please complete a Speaker Card and present it to the Clerk. This will assist the Members in hearing your comments at the appropriate time. Speaker cards are available from staff. In accordance with Government Code 54953.3 it is not a requirement to fill out a speaker card in order to speak to the Commission. However, it is very helpful to the Commission if speaker cards are submitted. As your name is called, please walk to the podium and speak directly into the microphone. Clearly state your name and address and then proceed to comment on the agenda item. In the interest of brevity and timeliness and to ensure the participation of all those desiring an opportunity to speak, comments presented to the Commission are limited to three minutes. We appreciate your cooperation.

NOTICE

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)

The City of Morgan Hill complies with the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) and will provide reasonable accommodation to individuals with disabilities to ensure equal access to all facilities, programs and services offered by the City. If you need special assistance to access the meeting room or to otherwise participate at this meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Office of the City Clerk at City Hall, 17555 Peak Avenue or call 779-7259 or (Hearing Impaired only - TDD 776-7381) to request accommodation. Please make your request at least 48 hours prior to the meeting to enable staff to implement reasonable arrangements to assure accessibility to the meeting.

If assistance is needed regarding any item appearing on the agenda, please contact the Office of the City Clerk at City Hall, 17555 Peak Avenue or call 779-7259 or (Hearing Impaired only - TDD 776-7381) to request accommodation.

NOTICE

Notice is given, pursuant to Government Code Section 65009, that any challenge of Public Hearing Agenda items in court, may be limited to raising only those issues raised by you or on your behalf at the Public Hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Commission at, or prior to the Public Hearing on these matters.

NOTICE

The time within which judicial review must be sought of the action by the Commission which acted upon any matter appearing on this agenda is governed by the provisions of Section 1094.6 of the California Code of Civil Procedure.